

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET

REGISTRATION SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date December 12, 1989

Social Security Number [REDACTED]

Full name John P. Lavoie

(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address [REDACTED]

City East Hartford

State CT

Zip

Date of birth 3/2/61

(This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age 28

(To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)

Religion Unknown

Nationality U.S.

Occupation Former Police Officer

Education Tech. School, 12 Years

Weight 205

Height 5'11"

Race W

Color of hair Brown

Color of eyes Brown

Outstanding characteristics or interests Police Explorers/Medical

Married or single Single

Children None

(Number, ages, and names if possible)

Spouse's name None

Scouting connections:

Unit No. E2743

City East Hartford, CT

State CT

Position EA

Date registered 1/31/89

Date resigned 11/17/89

Special Recognition EMT

Suspended or denied registration for the following reasons:

Incidents: Sexual relations with a minor.

See attached.

**NOTED**

**JAN 29 1990**

CONFIDENTIAL JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

DEC 26 1989

F. STARON

Signed Donald M. Lee

Scout Executive

Council Long Rivers Council

CONF015750

January 30, 1990

Mr. Donald R. Hall  
Scout Executive  
Long Rivers Council, No. 66

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: John P. Lavoie

Dear Don:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE  
JAN 30 1990  
LAW DALEY

CONF015751

SUSAN G. KNIEP  
MAYOR

# TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

## Police Department

TELEPHONE  
(203) 528-4401

GROVER D. HOWELL  
CHIEF

497 Tolland Street  
East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

### PRESS RELEASE

November 17, 1989

Chief Grover D. Howell suspended Officer John Lavoie, a twenty eight year old police officer and a member of the East Hartford Police Department for three and one half years, with pay effective November 14, 1989. On Thursday November 16, 1989 at 2:00PM Officer Lavoie was ordered to report to the police department and attend a "pre-termination" hearing. This hearing was scheduled to allow Officer Lavoie the opportunity to state the reason or reasons why his employment with the East Hartford Police Department should not be concluded.

~~This pre-termination hearing was the result of Officer Lavoie having been charged by Chief Howell on October 6, 1989 with the following violations of the Rules and Regulation of the East Hartford Police Department.~~

Count One: Violation of Chapter V section 5.15 G. which states, in part, "Officers are prohibited from engaging in the following activities while on duty: any sexual conduct."

Count Two: Violation of Chapter V section 5.14 which states, "Officers shall remain alert, observant and occupied with police business during their tour of duty. When on duty, officers shall devote their entire time and attention to the business of the Department."

Count Three: Violation Chapter IV section 4.3 which states: "No officer shall engage in any personal conduct which, if brought to the attention of the public, could result in justified unfavorable criticism of that officer or the Department. No Officer shall be involved personally in disturbances or police incidents to his discredit."

The departmental charges were the result of an internal investigation ordered by Chief Of Police Grover D. Howell. The investigation was two pronged: first criminal and then administrative.

The criminal investigation revealed that Officer Lavoie, as senior advisor of the Explorer Post, engaged in sexual liaisons with an underage female member of the Explorer Post. The victim and her parents in this case did not want Officer Lavoie charged criminally in this matter. State's

CONF015752

PRESS RELEASE  
CONTINUE  
November 17, 1989

Attorney John Bailey reviewed the facts of the case, which included a statement from the victim that she would not testify against Officer Lavoie. The State's Attorney's Office was willing to prosecute the case, however, based on the victims refusal to testify criminally and on the requests of the victims parents that Officer Lavoie not be criminally prosecuted, the State's Attorney decided that an arrest warrant would not be issued.

Thereafter, Chief Howell reviewed the facts and circumstances of the incident, discussed the case with the States's Attorney and decided that the case would proceed in an administrative manner.

The Department's Office Of Professional Standards found during the investigation that Officer Lavoie did in fact engage in sexual liaisons with the Police Explorer. Furthermore, it was determined and corroborated that Officer Lavoie, on one occasion, while in a marked police cruiser on duty and in his police uniform, engaged in sexual activity.

After having considered all the facts and evidence in the case, as well as all reasons presented by Officer Lavoie, his attorney and union representative, during the pre-termination hearing, Chief Howell has concluded that in the bests interests of the Town, Department, and the Explorer Post would not be served by continuing Officer Lavoie's employment with the department. Accordingly, he has notified Officer Lavoie that his employment has been terminated at 1:00PM on Friday, November 17, 1989.



**Going places**  
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3RD EDITION

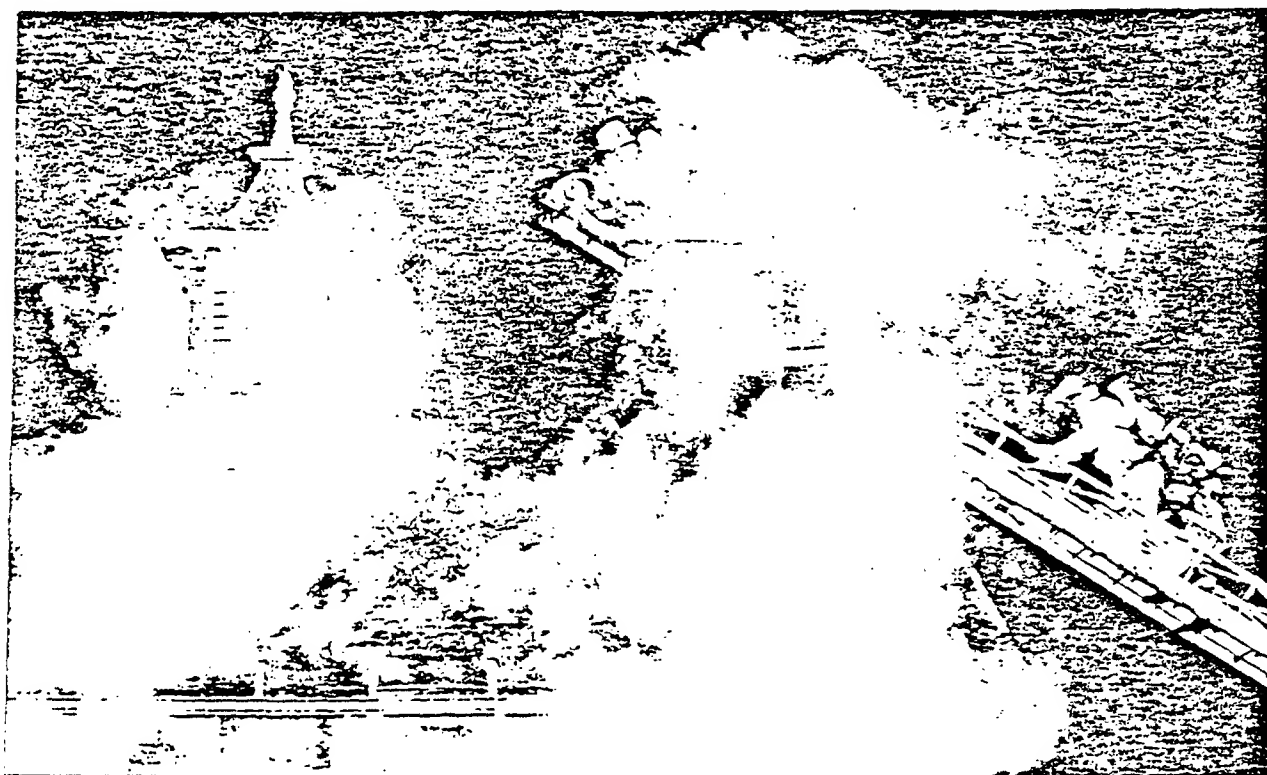
# Journal Inquirer

NOVEMBER 18, 1989

35 CENTS

## Hartford officer fired

Investigation finds he had sexual relations with Explorer /2



### Apartment house blaze

Ten people were forced to find temporary lodgings Friday because of a fire at their apartment house in Vernon. Two firefighters and one police officer were injured. Six engine crews, two aerial fire companies and two rescue trucks were called to the scene. Another photo on Page 5.

**USA Weekend**  
How today's families  
keep tradition alive

**Colt sale near**  
Move could restore  
strikers' jobs /14

**Homes Plus**  
House that fulfilled  
buyer's wishes /A1

# News

**DODD, OTHER SENATORS WARN EL SALVADOR.** El Salvador's rightist president was put on warning Friday that his country stands to lose U.S. aid unless he makes clear his commitment to improving human rights — and to solving the murders of six Jesuit priests and two others on Thursday. Leading the call by Democratic senators was Christopher Dodd of Connecticut. Page 3.

**TO TAPE OR NOT TO TAPE.** That's what Chief State's Attorney John J. Kelly explained Friday to municipal police chiefs who gathered in Rocky Hill to review laws and court rulings governing the taping of calls in and out of police headquarters. Page 5.

**CONSIDERABLY BIGGER THAN A BREADBOX.** Astronomers in Cambridge, Mass., have discovered a collection of galaxies — dubbed the Great Wall — which they say is the biggest structure ever seen in the universe. Just how big is it? Try 3,000 billion-billion miles long and 200 million light years wide. Page 8.

**PENNIES FROM STUDENTS.** East Hartford High School students have been competing this week to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, which assists families of children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The four high school classes had collected about eight large water jugs full of coins and bills during the week. Page 18.

**LOOKING TO EVICT DRUG DEALERS.** East Hartford Housing Authority officials are looking at ways to evict public housing tenants who deal drugs. The authority is in the process of revising its leases according to its director, who attended a regional conference this week on Drug Free Public Housing. Page 20.

# Editorials & comment

**WILL PEOPLE RIDE TOGETHER?** The state Transportation Department is improving and promoting mass transit in the Hartford and Stamford areas. But will people respond? Page 22.

# Living

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN.** Forget what you've heard about the glamour of book tours. Syndicated columnist Erma Bombeck says it's not so. She says you can feel yourself deteriorate day by day as you tour the next city. Page 25.

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# EH cop in Explorer probe fired

By STEVE STARGER

**EAST HARTFORD** — A town police officer who spent half his life pursuing a law-enforcement career was fired Friday for having sexual relations with a member of the department's Police Explorer post beginning when she was 15.

Police Chief Grover D. Howell on Friday fired John Lavoie, 28, after an exhaustive investigation resulted in Lavoie being charged in October with conduct unbecoming an officer.

The investigation, begun in September by the department's Office of Professional Standards, revealed that Lavoie and the girl had had numerous sexual contacts, including sexual intercourse, when the girl was 15 years old and which continued after she turned 16 in August.

Some of the incidents occurred in a police cruiser while Lavoie was in uniform and on duty, Howell said.

Department regulations state that officers "are prohibited from engaging in ... any sexual conduct" while on duty.

"It's my first really serious case here," Howell, a 30-year-veteran of the New York City Police Department who has been police chief here for seven months, said Friday.

"Although the decision agonizes me, I feel it was the right decision," the chief said.

Despite Lavoie's previously unblemished career and his cooperation with the investigation, the chief said he had "no choice but to terminate with regret" when he weighed Lavoie's previous record "against the trust we placed in him as a role model." Howell also noted that Lavoie initiated the contact with the Explorer.

Howell refused to comment on whether the girl is still a member of the Explorer post. He said that, to his knowledge, no other members have left the post because of the incidents.

Lavoie could have been charged with second-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor because of the incidents, Howell said.

Although the state's attorney was willing to prosecute Lavoie, the girl's parents requested that he not be criminally charged and the girl said she would not testify against Lavoie.

Lavoie began his journey to becoming a police officer when he joined the Explorer post at age 14, Howell said.

Lavoie was an officer for more than three years and was senior advisor to the Explorer post. The Police Explorers are affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and offer training for teenagers and young adults interested in law-enforcement careers.

Lavoie, whose police powers were suspended when the investigation began, had been working in an administrative capacity until last Tuesday, when he was suspended from the force with pay pending the outcome of a "pre-termination"

hearing on Thursday.

Lavoie's dismissal Friday is the most serious disciplinary action against a police officer since Joseph Triano was investigated six years ago on charges of using excessive force. Howell could not recall whether Triano was terminated at the time or resigned.

Lavoie's lawyer, Cheryl Hencko of New Britain, could not be reached Friday to comment on whether Lavoie will appeal his termination. Lavoie was reportedly out of town.

Michael Fowich, police union president, said in a prepared statement Friday, "Police officers are members of the human race. As such, we occasionally use poor judgment. John Lavoie used poor judgment and paid for it with the loss of his career. I know that this was not an easy decision for Chief Howell, and I will not comment on this decision."

Fowich said he felt the investigation was conducted properly and that "it worked to John's benefit."

The union head said he felt that Howell was trying to correct a lack of communication between ranking officers and patrol officers which, he said, clouded the department before Howell's arrival.

Fowich said he "doesn't recall a case of this magnitude before." He said Lavoie's fellow officers seem divided on his punishment.

"Some people think he deserved the discipline. Some people say he shouldn't have been fired," Fowich said.

Newly elected Republican Mayor Susan G. Krieger said in a statement Friday that "the behavior of the officer could not be condoned or tolerated within East Hartford. To assume any other position than that of Chief Howell would have reflected on the other fine officers of our police department."

According to a lengthy report of the investigation by Sgt. Mark Rinaldo and Officer Gary Willett, the Explorer had spoken to Officer William Gillanders, an Explorer advisor and Lt. Albert Kerling, commanding officer of the Explorer post, about sexual advances she said Lavoie had made toward her last summer.

The officers spoke to Lavoie; the report states, but Lavoie continued to see the girl, and their contacts eventually evolved into a relationship.

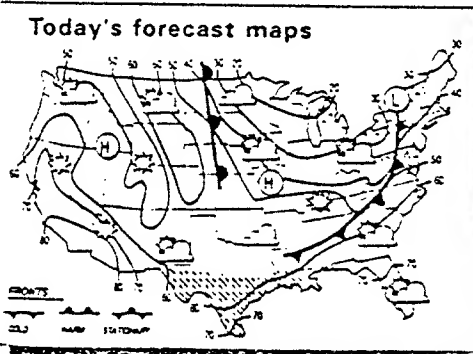
Howell said he was satisfied that Gillanders and Kerling didn't violate department rules in their handling of the situation, but he indicated he would rather have heard of the problem from the officers instead of anonymously.

"Maybe they didn't appreciate the seriousness of the situation," Howell said. "They didn't notify me."

Howell said the Explorer post now has three female advisors. Gillanders continues as an advisor. He praised the post and its award-winning activities.

Howell also commended Rinaldo and Willett for the investigation.

# Weather



Almanac	
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17	
Temperature: High of 45, low of 35, mean of 40. Normal is 41.	
Precipitation: None for the day, 2.12 inches for the month, 52.35 inches for the year. Normal for the year to date is 38.51 inches.	
Heating degree data: 25 for the day, 293 for the month, 772 for the season. Normal is 854.	
TODAY	
Record temperatures: Highest, 73 in 1963; Lowest, 15 in 1936.	
Sun. Sets at 4:27 p.m. today. Rises at 6:45 a.m. Sunday.	

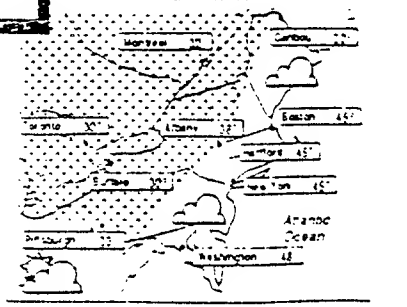
# Forecast

**Today**  
Increasing cloudiness with a chance of a brief flurry or sprinkle during the afternoon, high around 40 degrees. Clearing and colder tonight, with a low of 15 to 20 degrees.

**Sunday**  
Mostly sunny and cold, high in the mid 30s.

**Monday through Wednesday**  
Fair and cold, Monday. Chance of showers or snow flurries Tuesday and Wednesday. Daytime highs in the 40s. Overcast lows in the 20s to lower 30s.

**Air Quality**  
Good.



The National Weather Service provides continuous weather information for the area on 162.475 megahertz.



MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM

12/20/89  
09:36:48

CNCL 066 PRG/UNIT E2743 SEQ. 013686

MEMBER DELETE

FIRST: JOHN P

LAST : LAVOIE

ADDR1: [REDACTED] ADDR2: EAST HARTFORD CT

ADDR3: ADDR4:

ZIP: 06108

REG STATUS: R ENROLL: 0285 BIRTH: 0361 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A

POSITION: EA FINDERCODE: 53 PHONE: 0000000000 BULK: MAG-STATUS:

REN DAT: 0190

TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

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